

Chris Newmarker, *Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal*

The U.S. Department of Transportation is set to award a \$40 million grant to support renovations of Union Depot in downtown St. Paul, Rep. Betty McCollum announced Wednesday.

Plans call for transforming Union Depot into a regional transportation hub.

"The fact that this \$40 million grant comes from a new high-speed passenger rail program created by the Appropriations Committee is recognition that the Union Depot is Minnesota's link to the Midwest high-speed rail network," McCollum said in a news release.

The grant comes on top of a \$35 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant awarded in February.

Much of the \$237 million project is now funded, and construction is expected to start early next year, with the building expected to reopen in September 2012.

Plans call for Union Depot to serve Amtrak, local and interstate buses, and the Central Corridor light rail line that will link St. Paul with Minneapolis starting in 2013. Planners see the Depot someday serving commuter rail and high speed rail to Chicago.